

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiff,

v.

TISHA JANZEN,

Defendant.

CASE NO. CR14-5393 RJB

ORDER GRANTING
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
REDUCTION IN SENTENCE

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the above-referenced motion (Dkts. 153 & 169). The Court is familiar with the records and files herein and all documents filed in support of, and in opposition to, the motion.

THE LAW¹

In pertinent part, 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1) reads as follows:

(c) Modification of an imposed term of imprisonment.--The court may not modify a term of imprisonment once it has been imposed except that--

(1) in any case--

(A) the court, upon motion of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, or upon motion of the defendant after the defendant has fully exhausted all administrative

¹ The sections herein on The Law and Discussion – Legal Issues are taken from this Court's Order Granting Motion for Compassionate Release (Dkt 209) in *United States v McPherson*, WDWA Cause Number CR94-5708RJB, and are equally applicable here.

rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to bring a motion on the defendant's behalf or the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the defendant's facility, whichever is earlier, may reduce the term of imprisonment (and may impose a term of probation or supervised release with or without conditions that does not exceed the unserved portion of the original term of imprisonment), after considering the factors set forth in section 3553(a) to the extent that they are applicable, if it finds that—

- (i) extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant such a reduction; or
- (ii)

and that such a reduction is consistent with applicable policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission[.]

The Policy Statement referenced by the statute is USSG § 1B1.13 was required by 28 U.S.C. § 944(f), which provides:

The Commission, in promulgating general policy statements regarding the sentencing modification provisions in section 3582(c)(1)(A) of title 18, shall describe what should be considered extraordinary and compelling reasons for sentence reduction, including the criteria to be applied and a list of specific examples. Rehabilitation of the defendant alone shall not be considered an extraordinary and compelling reason.

In pertinent part, the policy statement at USSG § 1B1.13 provides:

Upon motion of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A), the court may reduce a term of imprisonment (and may impose a term of supervised release with or without conditions that does not exceed the unserved portion of the original term of imprisonment) if, after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), to the extent that they are applicable, the court determines that--

- (1) (A) Extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant the reduction; or . . .
- (2) The defendant is not a danger to the safety of any other person or to the community, as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g); and
- (3) The reduction is consistent with this policy statement.

Commentary

Application Notes:

1. Extraordinary and Compelling Reasons. – Provided the defendant meets the requirements of subdivision (2), extraordinary and compelling reasons exist under any of the circumstances set forth below:

(A) Medical Condition of the Defendant –

(i) The defendant is suffering from a terminal illness (i.e., a serious and advance illness with an end of life trajectory). A specific prognosis of life expectancy (i.e., a probability of death within a specific time period) is not required. Examples include metastatic solid-tumor cancer, amyotrophic later sclerosis (ALS), end-stage organ disease, and advance dementia.

(ii) The defendant is –

- (I) suffering from a serious physical or medical condition,
- (II) suffering from a serious functional or cognitive impairment, or
- (III) experiencing deteriorating physical or mental health because of the aging process

that substantially diminishes the ability of the defendant to provide self-care within the environment of a correctional facility and from which he or she is not expected to recover.

(B) **Age of the Defendant.**--The defendant is (i) at least 65 years old; (ii) is experiencing a serious deterioration in physical or mental health because of the aging process; and (iii) has served at least 10 years or 75 percent of his or her term of imprisonment, whichever is less.

(C) **Family Circumstances** –

(i) The death or incapacitation of the caregiver of the defendant's minor child or minor children.

(ii) The incapacitation of the defendant's spouse or registered partner when the defendant would be the only available caregiver for the spouse or registered partner.

(D) **Other Reasons.**—As determined by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, there exists in the defendant's case an extraordinary and compelling reasons other than, or in combination with, the reasons described in subdivision (A) through (C).

2. **Foreseeability of Extraordinary and Compelling Reasons.**—For purposes of this policy statement, an extraordinary and compelling reason need not have been unforeseen at the time of sentencing in order to warrant a reduction in the term of imprisonment. Therefore, the fact that an extraordinary and compelling reason reasonably could have been known or anticipated by the sentencing court does not preclude consideration for a reduction under this policy statement.

3. **Rehabilitation of Defendant.**—Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 994(t), rehabilitation of the defendant is not, by itself, an extraordinary and compelling reason for purposes of this policy statement.

4. **Motion by the Director or the Bureau of Prisons.**—A reduction under this policy statement may be granted only upon motion by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). The Commission encourages the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to file such a motion if the defendant meets any of the circumstances set forth in Application Note 1. The court is in a unique position to determine whether the circumstances warrant a reduction (and, if so, the amount of reduction), after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and the criteria set forth in this policy statement, such as the defendant's medical condition, the defendant's family circumstances, and whether the defendant is a danger to the safety of any other person or to the community.

This policy statement shall not be construed to confer upon the defendant any right not otherwise recognized in law.

DISCUSSION

Defendant was convicted of serious drug and firearm offenses and was sentenced to the mandatory minimum of ten years. She has served nearly six years and has a projected release date of June 24, 2023.

Defendant has satisfied the prerequisite – denial by the warden – to her Motion for Compassionate Release.

Defendant suffers from obesity, asthma and chronic knee pain. Her obesity is a medical condition that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified as placing an individual at serious risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and is a basis for this Court to consider a reduction in sentence. Particularly with her asthma and joint issues, and her well-founded fears of contracting COVID-19 in the prison setting, she presents extraordinary and compelling reasons for the Court to consider a reduction in sentence.

The Court must next assess Defendant's dangerousness and consider the factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553 in determining whether to grant the relief of a sentence reduction.

The seriousness of Defendant's offenses are discussed in the Government's response (Dkt. 174) and her Presentence Investigation Report (Dkt. 147) and do not require further discussion. They were serious, and called for serious consequences.

Her criminal history was a Category 1 but did display some drug and criminal issues through age 19 (Presentence Investigation Report, Dkt. 147). She is now 38.

Even with consideration of a few infractions in prison, her incarceration has been successful. In her words, "I have maintained clear conduct throughout my incarceration, received excellent work evaluations. I have not only done all classes that were asked by unit team, but many more to help myself and prepare for my release." Dkts. 153 & 171.

1 She has an appropriate release plan (*see* Amended Compassionate Release Investigation,
2 Dkt. 182) and is facing five years on supervised release under stringent conditions (Judgment,
3 Dkt. 151).

4 It also appears to the Court that Defendant has gained insight, understanding and maturity
5 during her incarceration (*see* Defendant's letter attached to her motion at Dkts. 153 & 171).

6 After consideration of all of the foregoing information referred to above, and a review of
7 the whole file, it appears to the Court, and the Court now finds, that Defendant is no longer a
8 danger to the community or any person, and that the time she has served is sufficient, but not
9 greater than necessary to comply with the purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Her time served
10 reflects the seriousness of her offenses, promotes respect for the law, and provides just
11 punishment. Deterrence and protection of the public has been accomplished.

12 Therefore, it is now

13 ORDERED that Defendant's Motion for Reduction in Sentence (Dkts. 153 & 169) is
14 GRANTED. It is further

15 ORDERED that Defendant's term of imprisonment shall be reduced to time served and she
16 shall be released 14 days from the date of this Order to accommodate a quarantine period with the
17 Federal Bureau of Prisons. If Defendant tests COVID-19 positive at any time during this quarantine
18 period, BOP will notify the Government who will immediately notify the Court so the Order can be
19 modified appropriately.

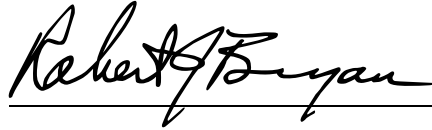
20 The Clerk is directed to send uncertified copies of this Order to all counsel of record and
21 to any party appearing *pro se* at said party's last known address.

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1 Dated this 4th day of December, 2020.

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4 ROBERT J. BRYAN
United States District Judge